

News Notes

from the COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF THE CHURCHES OF CHRIST IN THE U.S.A.
475 RIVERSIDE DRIVE
NEW YORK 27, N. Y.

addressed to those who are concerned with Christianity and Higher Education

Volume V, Number 24

December, 1959

HAVE YOU SENT IN YOUR RESERVATIONS?

This is a question to the college Presidents as the date of the Assembly of the Council of Protestant Colleges and Universities draws near. Send the card or a post card so we know how many to plan for. Please be equally careful about cancelling if you are forced to change your plans.

Luncheon 12 Noon Bay State Room Statler Hilton Hotel Boston
Tuesday, January 12, 1960

President Arthur G. Coons will speak on "FAITH, FREEDOM AND THE CONTEMPORARY COLLEGE"

Afternoon program includes a panel discussion by Dr. Marshall Dimmock of N. Y. U. and Dr. Will Herberg of Drew on "THE ORGANIZATION MAN AND THE AMERICAN COLLEGE"

Business Meeting with the new Executive Director

LIFE AND MISSION CONFERENCE NEARS CAPACITY ENROLLMENT

As of December 4th some 2500 registrations had been received for the NSCF (SVM) Quadrennial Conference on the Christian World Mission to be held at Athens, Ohio, December 27th to January 2, 1960. Since the limit is about 3000 a capacity conference is expected. Four years ago many came without previous registration and there was a slight mad-housy atmosphere of students sleeping in cars, gymnasiums, etc. The delegates will represent the whole world and will look at the Frontiers of the Church's life and work as they are seen around the world. Secularism, technological upheaval, racial tensions, displaced persons and similar problems are not national but world-wide, not denominational but ecumenical and this is the way the students will face them.

RE-APPRAISAL--THEME OF C. H. E. ANNUAL MEETING

Re-appraisal--serious, but we hope not too agonising, will be the theme of the Annual Meeting of the Commission on Higher Education to be held at St. Louis, February 14-15, 1960. The Department of Campus Christian Life will meet in advance starting Thursday evening February 11th and the Department of the Ministry will open its sessions on Friday, February 12th. These sessions will be part of the large assembly of the whole Division of Christian Education which will carry on through February 18th.

The re-appraisal theme arises out of the changing situation in higher education with which the churches are faced. Thus, the first item will be a careful look at this situation. What are the facts and factors that call for re-thinking our approach to higher education? The discussion will move forward into an examination of projections for the Council of Protestant Colleges, the National Student Christian Federation, Campus Christian Life and the Ministry. Speaker at the Annual Dinner Sunday evening will be Dr. Alec Boyd who, as principal of a Christian College related to a large university, has made a life-long study of the Christian concern for faith and learning.

NATIONAL
CHRISTIAN
COLLEGE
DAY

A recent meeting of the Public Relations Committee of C. H. E. reminds us that it is time to start planning for 1960 National Christian College Day which falls on April 24. Colleges that make effective use of the day start their planning early for student and faculty visitations to churches, campus events and seeking the cooperation of the newspapers, radio and T.V. Reports indicate that some of the churches will be preparing material for use by their colleges and local churches. Material to be produced by the Commission includes: mimeographed suggestions for the observance of the day (perhaps later to be developed into a Manual), a special issue of Information Service to be available about the middle of January, reprints of "Theological Foundations of the Church College" and "The Relation of the Church and the College" from the Drake Convocation of Christian Colleges, and the continued availability of previous publications such as the special issue of the International Journal of Religious Education, "The Church College", Williams, "The Theological Idea of the University" and Sageser, "What is a Christian College?"

A
CHALLENGE
TO
PROTESTANTISM

We are aware that breathing deeply doesn't always indicate that we are thinking deeply but it is encouraging to be able to report some serious efforts to grapple with the basic problems the church must face if we are to really act responsibly in relation to Higher Education.

The consultation of Theologians and Philosophers of Education did not issue a statement for general circulation but perhaps we should mention two or three important conclusions.

1. The Philosophers of Education are greatly concerned that Protestantism give thought to the question of philosophy of education. It is needed for inclusion in courses on comparative philosophies of education. When the protest is made that Protestantism by its nature cannot produce a "philosophy" it is pointed out that this is no excuse for the lack of responsible thinking that may have to be designated as "philosophies" or "theories" that are available in a literature. This lack not only creates a vacant place in the curriculum but deprives thousands of Protestant young people entering the teaching profession of an understanding of their calling in terms of Christian faith.

2. It became clear that to move ahead in seeking to meet this need will call for intensive and extensive historical research and study.

3. It became clear that "Protestant" theories of education will always include perspectives from the whole Hebrew-Christian tradition.

4. The Committee recommended that the C. H. E. seek funds to continue the study.

The FCF recently brought together a group of faculty for a consultation on The Role of Theological Study in the Faculty Christian Movement. After some general sessions at which a wide variety of stimulating opinions were expressed, the consultation separated into three discussion sections concerned with:

FACULTY
APPRAISE
THE
CONTRIBUTION
OF
THEOLOGY

"The nature of faculty hostility toward theology."

"What has theology to contribute to the person who has moved beyond this hostility?"

"What have the other disciplines to contribute to theology?"

The Faculty Christian Fellowship steering committee for the consultation agreed that out of the reports of these three groups a realistic and comprehensive "invitation to theological study" could be prepared for use in the faculty movement, and assigned the responsibility for preparing a draft of such an invitation to William Mueller.

Interesting information and ideas also appeared.

eg.--At Duke University discussions between theologians and political scientists are being carried on with mutual benefit and clarification.

- theology may mean different things to men in different disciplines. The physical scientist may be looking for spiritual nourishment, since he isn't so likely to get this from his own discipline. The humanists on the other hand find theology an important contributor to understanding in their own field of study and don't value it so much for personal reasons.

- The assertion that the physical sciences are subjects that can be dealt with great precision completely removed from subjective personal considerations was questioned by Harold Schilling of Penn. State. "Physics is what physicists do. The only way to learn physics is to live with physicists, get hold of the intangibles involved and see how physicists work." This raises a lot of questions about the concept of education as merely the transmission of a clearly-defined body of subject-matter.

One of the more encouraging examples of responsible ecumenicity is the way in which the denominational executives in Campus Christian Life have assumed the direction of the United Strategy Projects of the Department of Campus Christian Life. In the interim while the future of the Department is being determined the projects have been assigned to the various denominational staff members. As Designated Representatives of the Department, they give assistance, guidance and supervision to the projects as they would to their own centers. Actually this is not looked upon as an interim plan but as an effective way for the Department to operate. REPORT ON D.C.C.L.

The Department is carrying on limited operation with the General Director of the Commission serving as Acting Executive assisted by the Rev. Verlyn Barker in part-time capacity. Verlyn has served as campus pastor of the University of Nebraska and is taking graduate work at Yale Divinity School.

From time to time people say to staff members of the Commission on Higher Education, "Let me know when you are coming our way. We would like to have you visit the campus, speak to a faculty group or preach in the chapel." When planning a trip it is difficult to keep these general invitations in mind or to know which are serious or which are courtesy. Perhaps it will help if occasionally we mention in News Notes who expects to be where - when. Tentative itineraries are as follows: C.H.E. STAFF TRAVEL

<u>Hubert C. Noble</u>	December 27 - 31, 1959	Athens, Ohio
	January 11 - 14, 1960	Boston, Massachusetts
	February 11 - 18, 1960	St. Louis, Missouri
	February 24 - 25, 1960	Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
	May 1 - 2, 1960	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
	July 10 - 12, 1960	Washington, D. C.
	August, 1960	California
	September 5 - 10, 1960	Denver, Colorado
	December 3 - 8, 1960	San Francisco, California

Graydon McClellan Canadian & Southern Seminaries - no set dates as yet

<u>Keith Irwin</u>	December 28 - 31, 1959	St. Petersburg, Florida
	January 11 - 13, 1960	Boston, Massachusetts
	February 11 - 20, 1960	St. Louis, Missouri
		Missouri Colleges
		Stillwater, Oklahoma
	March 4 - 11, 1960	Houston, Austin, Georgetown, Texas
	April 2 - 8, 1960	Iowa

<u>Fred Stoerker</u>	February 20 - 27, 1960 March 23 - 25, 1960 April 21 - 30, 1960 October 14 - 22, 1960	Nashville, Tennessee Pottstown, Pennsylvania Pottstown, Pennsylvania Washington, D.C.
<u>William E. Crews</u>	January 28 - 30, 1960 February 1 - 3, 1960 February 4 - 11, 1960 February 15 - 19, 1960 February 22 - 27, 1960 March 3 - 5, 1960 March 7, 1960 March 8, 1960 March 21 - 24, 1960 March 25 - 26, 1960 April 1 - 3, 1960 April 25, 1960 May 2 - 11, 1960 July 16 - 31, 1960 August, 1960 September 5 - 12, 1960	Denver, Colorado Enid, Oklahoma Dallas, Texas Austin, Texas New England area St. Louis, Missouri Rochester, New York Rochester, New York Nashville, Tennessee Sewanee, Tennessee Washington, D. C. Philadelphia, Pennsylvania South-east Strassbourg, France Athens, Greece Denver, Colorado
<u>Herluf M. Jensen</u>	December 8 - 11, 1959 December 27 - January 2, 1960 January 24 - February 4, 1960 February 5 - 7, 1960 February 11 - 18, 1960 February 20 - 27, 1960 March 3 - 6, 1960 July and August, 1960 September 5 - 10, 1960 September 10 - 12, 1960	Atlantic City, New Jersey Athens, Ohio Europe Atlantic City, New Jersey St. Louis, Missouri Nashville, Tennessee Southern Ohio or St. Louis Europe - (Strasbourg, France (Tutzing, Germany (Greece Denver Area Denver, Colorado

Pastor Edward Theis of College Cevenol (Le Chambon-Sur-Lignon, Haute-Loire, France) writes to tell us that the college is setting up a summer course (August 10 - September 7, 1960) for students who desire preparation for entering a French University in the fall. The course will include advanced French and coaching on French University life.

Among the interesting documents to come to our attention recently is, "A Survey of the Organization and Practice of Public Relations in Non-Catholic Church Colleges with Enrollments of 1,500 or Less," a Masters' thesis written by Lyle W. Koerper of Sioux Falls College. It is a useful document well worth study by our Public Relations officers. The summaries of effective programs for various sized institutions may be very helpful to those working in the field.

Merry Christmas to one and all!

Hubert C. Noble
General Director